

NOV 15 2006

REMARKS

This amendment has been filed with a request for continued examination. Reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested. In that regard, claim 25 has been amended to more particularly point and distinctly claim the following feature: as discussed in the previous response, claim 25 is directed to an engine-based rather than a host-based digital rights management (DRM) scheme. A host-based scheme may be seen in the Mochizuki reference (USP 7,020,780) in that it is the host PC (element 104) that controls the decryption and access to content. The disk drive in Mochizuki is just a means to read data on an optical disk and present it to the host.

In sharp contrast, as discussed, for example, on page 14, lines 19-29, in the inventive engine-based DRM implementation set forth in the present application, the storage engine reads the metadata (keys) and itself decrypts the content. The decrypted content is then presented to the host device. Advantageously, the engine-based approach is much more immune to hackers in that the hacker never has access to the decryption key (in claim 25, the content key). Accordingly, claim 25 has been amended to include the limitation of "wherein the engine decrypts the file by using the content key and the complement key" so as to make explicit that the unlocking and resulting decryption of the file is performed by the engine, not by the host.

Because Mochizuki and the remaining cited prior art makes no teaching or suggestion for such an advantageous engine-based DRM implementation, claims 25 and 26 are allowable over the cited prior art.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, pending Claims 25 and 26 are in condition for allowance and allowance of the application is hereby solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, a telephone call to the undersigned at (949) 752-7040 is welcomed and encouraged.

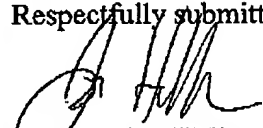
Certification of Facsimile Transmission

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to (571) 273-8300 at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

November 14, 2006

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Respectfully submitted,


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